



Town Recreational Shellfish Crier

March 13, 2020

1. Burton Baker Beach CLOSED to Shellfishing until June 1

The Burton Baker Beach recreational shellfishing-only area is closed until June 1. The area begins at the groin on the left when you walk out toward the water and extends northward (to your right) past the groin on the right to the big rock that sits on the flats. This is a management closure to make sure that we have plenty of oysters and clams when the rest of Wellfleet's intertidal areas close to recreational shellfishing and Indian Neck is the only area recreational harvesters can go starting June 1. There have been signs posted, but we have had to stop many people from shellfishing there in the past week, so we thought we would send a friendly reminder to shellfish north of the rock in the greater Indian Neck area. Also, Chipman's Cove is open until April 30, and all of South Wellfleet is open until May 31.

We are undertaking shellfish nursery efforts and making investments to supplement what Mother Nature provides so that you will have shellfish to harvest year-round! FYI: We will be closing an area around the breakwater this summer to plant quahogs from the state-run relay program. Stay tuned for more updates.

2. Measuring Oysters

So-called "petite" oysters have become the darlings of the raw bar world, perhaps because they are smaller and offer a way for novices to try oysters, or maybe because of the surge in "Buck a Shuck" specials offered by all types of restaurants and bars. They are called petites because they measure smaller than the legal oyster size which is three inches. The reason they can be sold is because they are farm raised. So, while we have all gotten used to seeing beautiful petite oysters on a raw bar plate, in the wild, petite oysters are seed, which means they can not be harvested. It seems that oysters that are between 2.5"-3" are the biggest spawners, which is why we want to leave them on the flats to contribute to the future of our shellfishery.

The take-away: Oysters must measure three inches vertically on a ring. Please measure each oyster you harvest. Wonderful volunteer and recreational shellfisherman David Thompson made three-inch PVC oyster rings that are free for all recreational harvesters. Please stop by our offices or the Principal Clerk's Office at Town Hall to get yours. Together, we'll ensure a sustainable shellfishery! Thank you!

Nancy Civetta

John Mankevetch

Chris Manulla

Shellfish Constable Assistant Constable

Deputy Constable